

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE

THE VITAL IMPORTANCE to the Royal Navy of the mercantile marine has never been forgotten: it is equally important that our Air Force should have behind it a flourishing and well-organised civil aviation. At sea we are at an advantage, because of necessity we are bound to maintain a considerable population of sea-farers; in the air we are handicapped, because our islands are less well adapted for the new form of transport than the wide spaces of many of our rivals. Our aerial traffic must be mainly concerned with the Empire as a whole. It is all the more important that our air lines should be run on the most efficient and up-to-date lines, and the Cadman Report unfortunately suggests that this is very far from the case in present circumstances. Subsidies are still necessary—indeed, the Report proposes that they should be doubled—and efficiency is always hard to secure in a subsidised industry. The recommendations of the Cadman Committee have been received with general approval, and there is little doubt that they will be put into operation without delay. Their essence is that a new spirit must be introduced into civil aviation and that the Cinderella of the Air Ministry, as it has been called, shall be raised to the higher status which belongs to it.

THE PALESTINE DEBATE in the Commons on Wednesday generated a certain amount of heat, if it did not produce any pearls of wisdom. Mr. Ormsby-Gore, the Colonial Secretary, was pained to fierce anger by the taunts of Colonel Josiah Wedgwood, but he could hardly have expected any unprejudiced person to believe that the gallant Colonel was in any way responsible for making the Palestine business difficult. There is but the one and only cause of Palestine disorder and unrest: that is the long absence of any consistent and intelligible policy towards the two races in the country and the encouragement given to both Jew and Arab agitator to fight for supremacy in a land that is admittedly to be handed over as soon as possible for self-government experiments. That the talk of Partition has in no way alleviated the situation in Palestine is obvious from the fact that disorders still continue despite the fact that, instead of the "normal garrison" of two battalions, we now have in the country practically two whole brigades. Various M.P.s complained of the lack of co-ordination between army and police. But the real trouble, of course, is that military and civil authority in Palestine suffers from the dilemma of trying to serve two very different masters. As Mr. Ormsby-Gore pointed out when declaring that the Government still believed in Partition, they were not dealing with the British Empire nor with British territory "where we have the sovereign and final say. Palestine is not merely mandated territory, but an 'A' mandated territory, and the first funda-

mental thing under the mandate is that the country should be prepared for self-government." Geneva, in short, has the "final say," and it is not to be hurried—"rushed" is Mr. Ormsby-Gore's own word. Meanwhile we have to keep order in Palestine, and we have not made matters any easier for ourselves by adding the complications of Partition to the difficulties inherent in the Mandate.

LORD LOTHIAN appears to be under the impression that his guiding hand is very much needed if danger is to be averted in India. When Congress was engaged sending its ultimatum to Lord Linlithgow over the Ministerial resignations in the United Provinces and Bihar, Lord Lothian, newly returned from India, at once came forward with the helpful suggestion that there was only one thing to do, namely, to give way to Congress and throw on its Ministries the full responsibility for wholesale jail deliveries. Fortunately, his "winged words" passed harmlessly into thin air. Lord Linlithgow happened to know precisely how to act, and the result has been a victory, not for Lord Lothian's madly foolish policy (of pouring petrol on a fire in order quickly to burn it out), but for commonsense. But, nothing daunted, Lord Lothian is once more to the fore with suggestions. Who can possibly know more about India than this comrade of Gandhi, this *quondam* guest of the Indian Sage in his Sheogaon *ashram*? And what has he to tell us? That the Federal part of the Government of India Act will "in the not too distant future" have to be amended "to meet Indian objections." Well, well. It has long been fairly notorious that Federation in India has far more opponents than friends. But all its opponents unhappily do not by any means think alike. What and whose then are "the objections" that Lord Lothian would have us meet in amending the Government of India Act? That is just one of those little practical difficulties that *Round Table* theorists who play with such things as "Dyarchy" and "Responsibility" never seem able to take into account. And if we leave ourselves in their officious hands we are merely asking for trouble.

"WORLD-RADIO" gives prominence to the letter of a reader delighted with his first test of a short-wave wireless set. This correspondent was thrice blessed. "What a baptism I had!" he writes ecstatically. He tuned into a performance of Verdi's *Aida* and—joy of joys!—during the singing of "Celeste Aida," the tenor "was seen to stagger and fall." The beauty of the performance was hugely enhanced by waiting for the arrival of an American substitute who arrived by taxi. How he sang or did not sing did not matter, for the listener was informed that the tenor's "indisposition was due to very acute

indigestion caused by eating crab-meat; also, that the last time a performance was interrupted was on April 3, 1917, when the prima donna collapsed upon hearing the news backstage that America had declared war." All our readers will envy this listener the "enjoyable performance" in which Verdi seems to have played a minor part, and some of them will perhaps wonder whether wireless is quite as good for the half-witted public as they thought it was.

THE RUSSIAN TRIAL proceeds in accordance with the rules and leaves on the foreign observer a strange impression of overshadowing terror. The shadow rests not only on the prisoners whom sudden death will soon relieve, but also on the judges and the audience, on Stalin himself and the millions who grovel beneath his feet. The confessions of those about to die lack any human touch of sincerity. Bukharin may be allowed to talk of theories and argue about philosophy, but he dare not say "if I did these things, I did them for the sake of my philosophy." He must confess himself false to his ideals, such as they were, though if his spirit were not broken, he might have brought such an indictment against his judges as might have redeemed his past. It is a little consoling to think of the joy that Russians generally must take at the sight of Yagoda, the dreadful chief of the OGPU, squirming in the box, though it is to be feared that such an emotion is anything but healthy for a nation. The terror of his name was shown by the pathetic doctor who confessed to having murdered the dying Gorki, because he was ordered to do so by Yagoda and was convinced that he would seal his own fate and that of the family he loved, if he did not obey. So far not a word has been said to show that Gorki's death which was imminent in any case could have had the smallest effect on Soviet politics or anything else. The whole story may be described as Alice in Wonderland turned into a waking nightmare and the only adequate explanation yet supplied is that given by Mr. Malcolm Muggeridge in an admirable article in the *Daily Telegraph*. A vast machine constantly increasing has been built for putting down conspiracies. Its very existence depends on the existence of conspiracies and now that everyone is too frightened to conspire, they must be invented. Stalin must for evermore have enemies to triumph over, even if those enemies have to be created out of his best friends.

SHOULD PHYSICAL TRAINING be compulsory? The obvious answer in a "free" country must be "no," and yet the sloppy gait of our young civilians these days make a sad contrast to the smart upright bearing of our well-drilled soldiers. At the Royal Institute of British Architects a "Health and Fitness" exhibition is being held during March; it is open free daily, to the public from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Saturdays, 5 p.m.). The exhibition is a blow to smug satisfaction as far as slums are concerned, for the photographs of what is, and what might be, in that direction show that though we are working on the right lines, much is still to be done, and to be done quickly, if the health of the nation is to improve.

For the rest there are delightful pictures of sports, youth hostels, schools and open spaces both at home and abroad; these are cheerful and cheering to the jaded Londoner. The object of the Exhibition is to persuade people to live, all the time, in a more healthy manner.

OUT OF THE welter of Art Exhibitions at present taking place in London, two stand out as of unusual interest. At the Leicester Galleries, Sickert, one time known as Richard, and now as Walter, has a room full of very interesting pictures. These are serious works; even where the subject is merely an adaptation from a snapshot or a newspaper cutting, there is a quality behind the apparent carelessness.

A fine landscape, "Broadstairs," is painted in rich colours and in a more conventional style than is usual with the painter. The plum of the Exhibition, however, is a painting of a flock of sheep. Distance is essential for this remarkable work to be seen in all its beauty; looked at close to, it is meaningless lines of paint, but as the observer recedes, each animal, as though by magic takes shape, and the orchard through which they pass becomes a wide expanse of greenery. It is a masterpiece for all time.

The Exhibition at the Burlington Galleries by the late Christopher Wood is important, for it represents the entire work of a young man, whereas the Sickert show is of a few works of a man past seventy. Christopher Wood, killed at 29 by an accident, painted 500 pictures in the short time he was at work. There is certainly no monotony about this artist; his work is extraordinarily versatile. He is happiest in studies of flowers and fish. The composition of these subjects is delightful and he has no fear of colour. In his land and seascapes he has a curious habit of omitting all shadow, and though his work is very fluent, this absence of contrast makes for a certain flatness that dulls otherwise exciting pictures.

THE NEW FILM COMPANY, formed by Charles Laughton and Erich Pommer, began its life with *Vessel of Wrath*, at the Regal. This is taken from a short story by Mr. Somerset Maugham in which a remittance man and a lady missionary are the chief protagonists. The missionary abominates drink because her father drank himself to death, and the remittance man abominates missionaries because his father, a clergyman, stopped him marrying the local barmaid and running the village pub. It is laid in the Dutch East Indies and is a good short story, but it is not a good film. If the characters had not been burlesqued, perhaps it might have made a good picture, though the scaffolding is rather slight, but Elsa Lanchester's lady missionary and Tyrone Guthrie's clergyman belong to cheap farce. Charles Laughton's inebriate is also not one of his best characterisations, and people who think of him as one of the foremost screen actors, and of Pommer as one of the foremost producers, will be disappointed that the combination of the pair has resulted in such a banal entertainment.

Leading Articles

BRITAIN IN ARMS

THE Prime Minister provided an eloquent reply to those who prefer Mr. Eden's way to his by the mere statement of the burden which this country has accepted for the purpose of defence. £343,500,000 is a startling sum to spend in one year on Navy, Army and Air Force without a thought of turning that expenditure to profit by using it for self-aggrandisement. These vast sums of money are being spent as an insurance premium to protect our own property, and it seems inconceivable that any means of decreasing the risks involved and reducing the premium should be ignored for questions of form or vanity. The United States was for a time "too proud to fight" and not long ago we were too virtuous to prepare for war, though we had not the slightest intention of following this pacifist ideal to its logical conclusion and casting upon the waters all that our ancestors' acquisitiveness had obtained. Burglars do not trouble the penniless beggar. He is unconcerned with insurance and immune from fear of loss. Those who have great possessions must either sell all they have and give it to the poor with a strong chance of fighting on the side of the devil or be prepared to pay the price of wealth. The trouble about an insurance premium is that the best of actuaries find it difficult to decide at what point it becomes a bad investment; it is not easy to say definitely at what point exactly insurance is swallowing too much of profit. Happily that question must be agitating other countries even more forcibly than our own. We seem to be bleeding ourselves white to restore our armaments. If in the past we had not whored after the strange goddess of disarmament, the burden would be less crushing, but every nation has to pay for its negligence. Yet no man can desire to go on multiplying these fabulous figures. The world was startled when the expenditure of £1,500,000,000 over five years was announced. Now we are told that there will be a substantial increase on this figure and it is still uncertain whether 1939 will be the "peak" year.

Mr. Chamberlain made it clear that we can stay the course. No other nation, not even the United States, could have met the sudden strain better than this country has. In the rest of Europe, people are arming, and more and more the weight they have to bear becomes oppressive. Common sense demands that there should be some check in this mad race, but it can only be made by mutual agreement and in such a contest it is only the strong who can prevail. "The sight of this enormous, this almost terrifying power which Britain is building up has a sobering effect, a steadying effect, on the opinion of the world. Everyone knows that these forces, great and powerful as they are, are not going to be used for aggression." Mr. Chamberlain's words are true beyond challenge and few foreigners would be found to deny that Britain's strength means European peace. Even

in the Near East where it is most difficult for the lion's paw to reach, the news that we had renounced the easy way of drift for the path of sacrifice gave fresh courage to the smaller nations.

In such circumstances we can discuss ways and means with any power without any sense of derogation. We have not been set up to decide how the rest of the world is to be governed nor has it been ordained by heaven that we should enforce what we call liberty on those who prefer another definition of that much abused word. We can afford to talk to Italy with the confidence of strength and seek for some solution of the problems that disturbed a traditional friendship equally valuable to both. Again it is to be hoped that some understanding may be reached with Germany, which will give time and opportunity to that nation to realise that peace hath her victories no less renowned than war. For their own sakes the powers which are not content with things as they are will be compelled to call a halt and that halt will be called the sooner when they understand that they cannot outstrip the armaments of this country which is determined not only to maintain peace, but also to be fully armed for its maintenance.

Not the least virtue of the Defence Debate in the House of Commons was the general agreement that no effort must be spared to make the strength of Britain apparent to the world. Opposition criticisms were mainly concerned with the way in which these vast sums of money are being spent and with suggestions that the country may not be getting its full money's worth. In most respects it is clear that armament is proceeding apace and that as a whole accomplishment outruns expectation. The main uneasiness concerns our Air strength and there is general disappointment that Mr. Chamberlain could not frankly adopt Lord Baldwin's standard—why the Prime Minister should call it a "yard stick" remains a mystery—and announce our intention to achieve parity in first line strength with any air force within striking distance of this country. Such a programme would seem to be a minimum and the Prime Minister's suggestion that all other kinds of considerations must be regarded in defining parity darkens counsel.

In the good old days we were content when our Navy was superior to the combined forces of any other two Naval Powers. That was a simple standard which no one called a yard stick and there was no question of watering it down by reliance on our powers of building, production and the like, which at the time far exceeded those of any other nation. It is to be hoped that the people of this country will insist on a first line Air Force at least equal to that of any other power that might possibly attack us. Indeed we need a considerable margin of superiority, for we are the most vulnerable nation in the world with commitments scattered far and wide. We are confident in the skill and moral of our personnel and in our potential strength, but these are assets which cannot be surely weighed and which surely should be kept in reserve to compensate for the miscalculations which are apt to occur even in the most carefully thought-out policy.

The danger of trusting in these intangible reinforcements is shown by the Cadman Report on Civil Aviation. It would seem foolish to rely on anything but our own military air force when we learn that our system of civil air transport, subsidy and all, is far from reaching the standard this country is bound to set before it. It is not too late to put things right, but delay would be intolerable. The Government may have been too concerned with making up for past lapses in defence to have time for organising normal air traffic, but to-day it is clear that steps must be taken to establish the air lines of the Empire on a level worthy of its extent.

THE SPIRIT OF LYAUTEY

FOR some years it has been apparent to those of us who know and love Morocco that all has not been going well in the French Protectorate. After the departure of Marshal Lyautey on the completion of no less than fourteen years' service as Resident-General, more attention was paid to the pacification of the outlying districts and the demands of the colonists than to the welfare of the Moors. Thus it is not surprising that this lack of practical sympathy when combined with frequent changes in the administration and a series of bad harvests due to the drought which rendered famine inevitable, had rendered the situation extremely serious by the time General Noguès was appointed Resident-General in October, 1936. In addition, the Civil War in Spain and the steady growth of Nationalist feeling—always liable to increase in times of economic stress—had aggravated the situation.

No better appointment could have been made. He was no débutant in affairs Moroccan, for in addition to having made a name for himself both as soldier and administrator, he had been the trusted friend and confidant of Lyautey. He summed up the situation with the swift certainty of the successful commander. During the Spring of 1937 he took vigorous measures to relieve the sufferings the people had to endure in the Sus and Waryayat regions, and personally superintended the measures he had himself planned for the widespread distribution of food. Then later during the troubles in Meknès, Fez and Rabat, he showed that he knew how to act with tact, firmness and decision in times of civil strife.

No Resident-General since Lyautey ever had such difficulties to contend against, for when those relief measures so wisely undertaken to alleviate the famine had begun to take effect then typhus—a disease always endemic in some of the closely populated towns—broke out and found easy victims in a people whose constitutions had been undermined by starvation. At once the Medina at Marrakesh was closed—thereby preventing the spread of the disease Northwards—and inoculations were carried out, not only in the J'ma el F'na but also all over Southern Morocco on such a scale as to speak well for the organisation and efficiency of the French Medical services.

I have just returned from a visit to the French Protectorate, having investigated the situation at Fez, Rabat and Meknès. Rabat is the head-

quarters of the French administration and there the officials of the residence received me with the greatest courtesy and furnished me with all the information I desired. They were very frank. Mistakes had been made; sufficient attention had not been paid to the welfare of the Moors; now every possible effort was being made to put things right.

I was shown a confidential memorandum of Lyautey's written just before the retirement of that great pro-Consul. It seemed like history speaking and prophesied the ills that must occur should the co-operation of the Moors be neglected during the building up of a new Morocco. Now once more the methods of Lyautey are being revived and the Protectorate governed in that grand manner which was so successful before it was abandoned in 1926.

Practical measures are not lacking. Two great irrigation schemes are *en train*, one at Marrakesh and one in the North, and once these are completed it is to be hoped that a large portion of the population will be successfully settled on fertile land. There is one difficulty. It is this. The Berber tribesmen will doubtless be unwilling to leave their old homes and start again in new country even though starvation must inevitably be their lot should they remain in their desert wastes.

Another point that strikes me as being admirable is the progress being made in education. Until 1930 not very much was done in this respect, partly, no doubt, owing to reluctance on the part of the Moors to attend schools run by the French and partly through lack of funds. Now there are three large Franco-Arab Colleges at Fez, Rabat and Marrakesh where education is provided free to boys of respectable family. Well built and well designed, these colleges provide every possible amenity and the pupils receive excellent instruction from French and Arab teachers. The college of Mulay Youssef, which I visited at Rabat, can scarcely cope with the demands for admittance, for the Moors have great respect for learning and eagerly avail themselves of the opportunities offered. In addition to these advanced colleges, many Franco-Arab elementary schools are being opened in different parts of the country.

Since the vigorous measures taken in the Autumn, no further trouble has occurred, or is likely to occur, with the Moroccan Nationalists. The intelligent Moors, notably the Fezis, themselves realise that they can never shake themselves free from French rule and indeed, remembering the great benefits they have received, do not wish to do so. Owing to the efforts of the French, roads and railways have been provided; travellers can journey in perfect safety from one end of the country to the other; men can till their fields in peace knowing that no marauding bands will come to lay waste their homes and carry their families into captivity.

Disaffected people from the Spanish zone have, without the knowledge of the Spanish authorities, no doubt, endeavoured to spread propaganda but this has had, it would seem, but little effect. In the same way Italian propaganda, which is intended more than anything else to glorify Italy, has not interested the Moors very much, for they

are well aware of what goes on in the outside world and remember the "pacification" of Libya.

Only two things are needed to ensure the welfare of French Morocco—economic prosperity and a sympathetic attitude on the part of the French towards the Moors, for it must always be remembered that it is their country and so must be run with due regard to their welfare.

It is good to think that in General Noguès French Morocco possesses an able administrator who, with the assistance of the able band of officials he has gathered round him at the Résidence, may be relied upon to revive the spirit of Lyautey.

F. H. MELLOR.

TREE TOP FAMILY

UP and down the tall, smooth beech-trees and over the leaf-strewn ground they flew with a rapidity that the eye could scarcely follow. It seemed impossible that any animal could execute such lightning twists and turns or that they could race at such an incredible speed up and down the perpendicular boles of the beeches. The tiny feet left no marks upon ground or bark. There sounded no patter of twinkling feet. They might well have been two wood-fairies at play in the pale spring sunshine; but they were not. They were just a couple of red squirrels and I regret to say that this was no game. It was a fight, a fight for the good graces of the little, bright-eyed beauty who sat on a branch and watched her suitors with a twinkling mischievous eye.

It was not a fight to a finish. Such things seldom happen in the wild. On the few occasions when the two combatants came to grips there was a great deal of swearing and wrestling. But such bouts were rare. Mostly they were content to chase each other round the wood. Very little real damage was done and after one of their tussles one of the gladiators took to his heels and after chasing him out of sight the victor came hurrying back to his lady love.

He need not have worried; she was still there and no other rival was in sight. He looked around as if seeking other foes to conquer, but finding none he strutted as pompously as a game-cock. Before presenting himself to his lady he made his toilet. Very carefully he smoothed his fur and combed his whiskers until he was spick and span as a new pin. Then with one glad flirt of his brush he twinkled up the tree and sat beside her.

He was quite certain that she was his. He had won her in fair fight and he was a handsome little fellow. What more could she want. But he had not reckoned with feminine perversity. Scarcely had he settled himself beside her when he received a box on the ear which nearly knocked him off his perch. He could not take that from anybody. He righted himself with a chatter of rage and prepared for fight but she was gone. He gave chase.

And what a chase it was. Up to the tree-tops and down to the ground she led him, always as elusive as a will-o-the-wisp. From branch to

branch she leapt, sometimes headlong into space to reach another tree. Sometimes she hid amidst the lofty greenery and he searched in vain only to hear her soft chuckle yards away. He tried to cut off her retreat and failed. He was no mean strategist this little red climber, but she was cleverer than he. But in the end, just before the gloaming she gave in. She let him find her; make love to her upon a lofty bough, and that night they slept curled up in the hollow of a tree.

After that there was no quarrelling. They played together in the strengthening sunshine and built the home in which their young would be born. It was a round structure with an entrance hole in the side. They built it of dead sticks and twigs and lined it with soft, sweet-smelling grass. This was the main drey or nest, but at varying distances from it they built two more, for the squirrels are a careful folk and always build spare dreys in case the main one becomes foul or damp.

The building of their dreys took some time and each and every day they laboured from dawn to dusk, but at length the work was done and five days later three tiny squirrel kits squirmed on the bed of grass in the nursery. They had a devoted mother who only left them to eat a hasty meal. Their father, too, was never far away, for he was the sentinel who was to guard them against the ever-present dangers of the wild. And a very valiant little guardian he was.

It was on the fifth day after the arrival of the kits that the weasel found the nest. He peered up from the ground and saw the round bundle of sticks above him. His thin tail twitched with joy as he thought of the easy meal which lay within. With an almost reptilian movement he darted up the tree.

He had not gone far when a little red fury dashed down to meet him with a shrill chatter of rage. The weasel halted while the squirrel hurled threats and objurgations at him. The raider was no coward; far from it, but he was utterly taken aback by this unexpected opposition. He made as if to advance, but the squirrel danced threateningly in front of him. The weasel fell back, for if the warrior in front meant business it would be a serious matter. Perhaps it would be better to seek his meal elsewhere rather than attempt to pass this ferocious little red imp.

The shrill chatter of the squirrel had not gone unheard. His mate knew the meaning of that shrill alarm note. No sooner had she heard it than she took one of her kits by the scruff of the neck and ran lightly out upon the branch. With no more effort than if she were unladen she conveyed her child to one of the other dreys and then returned. One by one she removed her children to safety and as she left for the last time she chattered.

The red warrior heard and understood. Like a flash he turned and darted away leaving the weasel master of the situation. A few minutes later the tree-top family were safely settled in their new home while a disappointed killer hissed his rage as he emerged from an empty drey.

DAN RUSSELL.

The Inner Man

WINE AND FOOD SOCIETY'S WORK

COMING events cast their shadows before them . . . sometimes, but past events are a far better guide for all who are in search of the sunshine of interesting fare and wines. It is all very well to be told, for instance, that the Wine and Food Society will stage for its Members and their friends an Alsatian dinner, on April 5th and 6th, when the best fare that one would expect to find at Strasbourg will be served and some of the best Alsatian wines, as well. Also that on the 13th April, on the second day of the Early Market Produce show at the Royal Horticultural Society's Great Hall, the Wine and Food Society will give a Vegetarian Luncheon which will give you a chance to taste most if not all the vegetables which you will have admired at the Royal Horticultural Hall the day before, and so learn how best to make use of them. Yet to many doubting Thomas's, the list of the past functions staged by the Society during the last few years may prove to be more acceptable evidence of the many-sided activities of the Society in the realm of Gastronomy.

FUNCTIONS ALREADY HELD

1. November 1933. Lunch: Alsace fare and wines. *Café Royal*.
2. December 1933. Madeira Tasting, 6 Little Russell-street.
3. January 1934. Dinner: Savoy fare, Rhône wines. *Savoy Hotel*.
4. February 1934. Luncheon: Touraine fare and wines. *Park Lane Hotel*.
5. March 1934. Tasting of Empire Wines. *Connaught Rooms*.
6. April 1934. Dinner: Provence fare, Burgundy wines. *Carlton Hotel*.
7. May 1934. Dinner: Champagne fare and wines. *Grosvenor House*.
8. June 1934. Moselle Tasting. *Vintners' Hall*.
9. July 1934. "English Day": English fare and beer. *Little Hedgecourt, Felbridge, East Grinstead*.
10. October 1934. First Annual Conference of the Society. *Royal Pavilion, Brighton*.
11. October 1934. Carême Banquet (in the style of the Regency). *Royal Pavilion, Brighton*.
12. November 1934. Port Tasting. *Vintners' Hall*.
13. November 1934. Banquet to the President. *Savoy Hotel*.
14. January 1935. Luncheon: Portuguese fare and wines. *Café Royal*.
15. February 1935. Dinner: Russian fare, Bordeaux wines. *Ritz Hotel*.
16. March 1935. Sherry Tasting.
17. May 1935. Dinner: English fare, Bordeaux wines. *Piccadilly Hotel*.
18. June 1935. Garden Party. *Little Hedgecourt, East Grinstead*.
19. June 1935. Champagne Tasting. *Vintners' Hall, E.C.*
20. July 1935. Luncheon: American fare, Champagne Cup. *Savoy Hotel*.
21. October 1935. Annual Conference and Banquet. *Guildhall, Bath*.
22. November 1935. Claret Tasting. *Vintners' Hall, E.C.*

23. November 1935. Luncheon: Covent Garden produce, Burgundy wines. *Café Royal*.
24. December 1935. Dinner: Bordeaux fare and wines. *Carlton Hotel*.
25. March 1936. Brandy Exhibition. *Vintners' Hall, E.C.*
26. March 1936. Dinner: South African fare and wines. *Café Royal*.
27. April 1936. Luncheon: Cornish fare, Bordeaux wine. *Park Lane Hotel*.
28. April 1936. Luncheon: Early market produce, White Bordeaux Cup. *St. Ermin's Restaurant*.
29. May 1936. Dinner: Spanish fare and wines. *Spanish Club, London*.
30. May 1936. Luncheon: Danish fare, beer and liqueurs. *Café Royal*.
31. June 1936. Hock Tasting. *Vintners' Hall, E.C.*
32. June 1936. Dinner: Hungarian fare and wines. *Hyde Park Hotel*.
33. June 1936. Dinner: English fare and champagne. *Whipsnade Zoo*.
34. July 1936. Luncheon: English fare and specially imported Australian wines. *The "Orion," Tilbury Docks*.
35. October 1936. Annual Reunion Banquet: English fare, Burgundy and Champagne. *Connaught Rooms, W.C.*
36. October 1936. Annual Conference. *Vintners' Hall, E.C.*
37. November 1936. English Cider and Apple Tasting. *Royal Horticultural Society, S.W.*
38. November 1936. Dinner: Rhône fare, Burgundy wines. *Gargoyle Club*.
39. January 1937. Red Burgundy Tasting. *Vintners' Hall, E.C.*
40. February 1937. Diner du Tastevin: Burgundy fare and wines. *Langham Hotel*.
41. March 1937. Luncheon: Lenten fare, Moselle and Port. *Café Royal*.
42. April 1937. Dinner: Jura fare and wines. *Bush House, Aldwych, W.C.*
43. April 1937. Luncheon: Early market produce, Italian wines. *Café Royal*.
44. May 1937. Dinner: Victorian fare, Champagne, Claret, Burgundy and Hock. *Hyde Park Hotel*.
45. June 1937. Supper: After-theatre fare, and Champagne. *Boulestin's Restaurant*.
46. June 1937. Dinner: Viennese fare and wines. *Café Royal*.
47. July 1937. Luncheon: English fare, Bordeaux wines. *Hind's Head Hotel, Bray-on-Thames*.
48. October 1937. Annual Conference. *Vintners' Hall, E.C.*
49. October 1937. Dinner: Annual Reunion: French fare, Moselle, Claret and Champagne. *Langham Hotel*.
50. November 1937. Luncheon: Lucullus-on-the-Dole fare, Bordeaux wines. *Café Royal*.
51. November 1937. Swiss Wine Tasting. *Vintners' Hall, E.C.*
52. November 1937. Dinner: Swiss fare and wines. *Ritz Hotel*.
53. December 1937. Dinner: Game dishes and Burgundy wines. *Gargoyle Club*.

The seventeenth issue of the Wine and Food Quarterly (2s. 6d.) has just been published. Its contents include:

The Gray's Inn Coffee House, by Arthur Machen.

Meals and Morals, by Edward Samson.

New York and Boston Revisited, by André L. Simon.

A Week in England, by H. B. & G. Hoskins.

Ramblings in France, by Desmond Flower.

Epicurean Rambles in Spain, by I. J. Williams.

Personality in Food, by Christopher Dilke.

Beaujolais, a Poem, by Martin Armstrong.

Books of The Day

ANTARCTIC REALISM

THE ARCTIC and Antarctic have produced many a stirring chronicle of heroic endeavour, but there is a very special quality about Mr. F. D. Ommanney's "South Latitude" (Longman's, illustrated, 9s. 6d.), which differentiates it in marked degree from any other record of Polar work and experience. Mr. Ommanney may have been a biologist by profession who merely sought for escape from the dreary round of lecturing on zoology to students of the East London College when he suddenly applied for a post on the scientific staff of the *Discovery II*; but he was destined to suffer a sea-change into something very much more than a mere romantic adventurer. Possibly all unsuspected by him was the realist, impressionist artist he housed. That part of him emerged directly he stepped aboard the Norwegian factory ship that was to take him out to South Georgia and it remained to take charge of the writing of his book. It is responsible for a whole series of unforgettable pictures and portraits that illumine his seven-year odyssey and make the reader of his book feel that he or she is fully sharing in its happenings and seeing Mr. Ommanney's comrades just as he sees them. Nor is there any lack of variety in these pen pictures. Mr. Ommanney has his quiet as well as his thrilling moods. He can paint the changes of the sky for us with a few deft touches as for example:

Different regions of the world, different seas, have skies of their own, and, as you pass through the Atlantic southward, you pass from one type of sky to another. In the tropics the sky is hard blue or angrily and heavily overcast, but between the latitudes of Rio and Buenos Aires it becomes a limpid blue, and on the horizon stand built-up towers and pyramids of yellow cloud, all on a common misty base where sea and sky meet.

Or he can reveal to us all the excitements of a whale hunt with its awe-inspiring ending:—

"The ship wallowed, the waves flopping and flapping against her sides, and the harpoon-line no longer running out of the hold, but hanging taut from the bows, straight up and down. Then began a thrashing disturbance in the water a mile away to starboard. The terrible, lonely and titanic death struggle began. Dark against the lashed smother of foam there wheeled and thrashed now a forked tail, now a pointed head still grinning; now a ribbed belly showed, now a pointed flipper, raised on high, smacking down upon the water. Then a red fountain burst upwards, and another. He was spouting blood. It meant the end. 'Ah!' they said on the foredeck.

"Still the Leviathan fought for his life, his harmless, free and joyful life that had suddenly been struck from him at one dreadful blow. He whirled in a fury of crimson foam. The winch rattled and the slack harpoon-line came in until it curved to him across the mile of water. Now it grew tight and pulled him. He drew towards us, and suddenly he was still, his ribbed belly upwards, the crimson sea where he lay suddenly calm, and a cloud of birds hovering above. In the distance a solitary iceberg, remote, forlorn and lonely, stood off and watched him die."

Then there is the study of fortitude on the *Discovery II*, ice-imprisoned in the Weddell Sea,

with her hull holed and rudder damaged and an iceberg bearing down on her; or again that terribly graphic picture of breakdown during a survey expedition lost in the desolate ice wastes of the South Shetlands, with the courage of the resourceful old Highland seaman, Jock Matheson, shining as a light in a grimly dark situation. And for contrast one might also compare the delightfully entertaining description of a visit to a colony of courting penguins with the stark horrible realism of this surgical, whale-cutting-up scene:—

There were two lemmings, enormous men, who swore violently in English because there are no words expressive enough in Norwegian. They decapitated the whale first. Then they began to open its midriff, and this is where we (the scientists) came in. Two of us advanced upon the carcass, knives, as it were, at the "ready." We made a longitudinal cut in the belly wall and another vertical one behind in the public region.

When the whale was killed he was filled with air to make him float. He has also been decomposing gently since then so that directly the body cavity is opened there is an explosive outrush of gas. The gas stinks. If you cut too deep with your knife, as you often unavoidably do, there is an equally explosive outrush of liquid, yellowish-brown faeces, and you become covered in this if you do not dodge it quickly, as you often unavoidably do not. This, however, was part of the job. When these cuts have been made the flap of belly wall falls down and out come the vast innards of the beast. A stomach like a balloon, round and hard and inflated if full; soft, flaccid and voluminous if empty—a stomach large enough to hold a man crouching. Intestines the size of motor tyres, pale pink in colour. Fold upon fold of uterus billowing out or immense testes like bolsters. Sometimes there was a foetus in the uterus, and triumphantly we pulled out an almost perfect little miniature whale six inches, a foot, two feet, ten feet or nearly twenty feet long. . . .

One adventure that fell to the lot of *Discovery II* was the search for and finding of the two airmen, Lincoln Ellesworth and Hollick Kenyon who in their trans-Antarctic flight had come down with their petrol exhausted and their wireless out of action in the vicinity of Little America. Mr. Ommanney has a lively and amusing account of the rescue and its sequel. Altogether his book, judged both by its contents and the vigour and picturesqueness of his style, has all the marks in it of an assured best-seller.

A NEAR EASTERN INQUIRY

In the belief that "many of our actions to-day are the fruit of our hopes and fears of the past" and that "the study of the true creeds and aspirations of a nation and of her leaders should give us an insight into the possible future of that nation," Mr. Rom Landau set out to make as thorough an investigation as was possible into spiritual conditions in the Near East whose importance to him lay in the fact that it "has affected the very foundations of Western life far more deeply than any of the continents of the world, Europe itself included." This inquiry of his was thus what he calls the book in which he records its results a "Search for To-morrow: The Things Which Are and the Things which shall be Hereafter" (Nicholson & Watson, illustrated, 10s. 6d.). His journeys took him to Egypt, to the Kingdom of Ibn Saud, to Lebanon, Syria and Palestine, to Transjordan and Iraq, to the new Turkey, to Greece, Bulgaria and Yugo-Slavia. Since he could not visit Yemen he

interviewed the Imam's younger son in England. Throughout his itinerary Mr. Landau sought to establish contact with every responsible individual who would give him an opportunity of putting the questions he had in mind. In this way he had conversations with Kings and Ministers, religious leaders, social reformers, literary men and politicians. All these conversations he duly reports, adding his own conclusions and giving his readers many excellent portraits (notably that of Ibn Saud) of the men he has seen. Not everyone, of course, will agree with all the conclusions he offers. But his book is a highly interesting, thought-provoking one, which deserves careful consideration because of the obvious sincerity with which it is written and because, too, of the meticulous pains taken to make it an authoritative record of the opinions gathered. Mr. Landau's investigations in Palestine have led him gravely to question the merits of a policy of Partition. Who, he pertinently asks, is going to protect the new Jewish State when it is established? The Arabs he is sure are not in the least likely to respect its boundaries.

A Jewish State (as a remedy for Jewish persecution) in any form is not the ideal, but only a poor second-best solution. The solution worthy of a civilised humanity is that in which no anti-Semitism or any other racial or national hatred will be able to raise its ghastly head, and through which the Jew will be allowed to add his peculiar stimulus to the culture of the nation in which he lives and which that nation by itself is not able to produce. Such a mutual enrichment can only take place on a basis of that complete equality which is the essence of the gospel of Christ and which at present seems to find its nearest realisation in the life of Great Britain.

The Palestinian problem is primarily not a political, administrative or economic one. It arises from the objection of the Arabs to the presence of the Zionists, and is, above everything else, a human problem. It must obviously be treated on a human basis. Administrative measures, Royal Commissions and quotas will not bring about a lasting solution. Such a solution can only be achieved if responsible Arabs and responsible Jews can meet on a human basis to discuss their difficulties as human beings and not as the representatives of this or that faction.

Practically everywhere in the Near East Mr. Landau found a break-away from institutional religion, but this, he says, does not imply a weakening of religion *per se*. "Religion is there still the chief source of inspiration," but it is manifesting itself through communal rather than individual activities. In Greece he notes a difference in spiritual outlook between the townsman and the peasant; Communism has begun to lose its influence and the religious Zoe movement is growing. In Bulgaria he saw signs of spiritual re-awakening in the Dobriya Samarianin and the White Brotherhood. "It would be," he says, "a sad fate for Europe if her smaller neighbours in the South-East were the first to lay the right spiritual foundations for the future."

NAPOLÉONIC WAR DOCUMENTS

The presentment of an important period of history through the medium of contemporary documents, with a slight connecting link of explanatory summaries, has its obvious attractions, as readers of Mr. Paul Frischauer's fascinating book "England's Years of Danger: A New History of the World War 1792-1815 drama-

tised in 'Documents' (Cassell, 12s. 6d.), will discover for themselves. The author, who is to be congratulated on the results of his zealous researches, has taken his material from letters, speeches, newspaper reports, contemporary descriptions, recorded conversations and entries in private diaries, and some of this material has never been published before. Among the earlier documents quoted is the letter from the widowed Marquise Josephine de Beauharnais to a friend asking for the latter's advice on the subject of the proposed marriage to General Buonaparte.

Do you love him? you will ask. Well . . . no. Do you dislike him? No. I am in a sort of lukewarm state which I do not like at all . . . It has always been difficult for my Creole temperament to make a decision . . .

I admire General Buonaparte's courage, his wide knowledge, and the lively mind that enables him to grasp what another person is saying even before he has uttered it. But I am, I confess, afraid of the sway he appears to exert over everything around him. There is a scrutinising look in his eyes which has something . . . sinister, something inexplicable in it.

Barras tells me that if I marry him he will get him the command of the Italian army. Yesterday Buonaparte said to me, "Do they think I need their patronage to get on? The day will come when they will be only too glad to have mine. I have a sword at my side; with that I'll go far."

What do you make of that? I don't know, sometimes I feel this ridiculous self-assurance winning me round—and I begin to think anything possible that this extraordinary man puts into my head. And with an imagination like his who can tell what he might not undertake.

Towards the end of the book we have the report of a piquant conversation between Prince Bernadotte and the Count Pozzo di Borgo, in April, 1814, regarding the Allies' choice of a successor to Napoleon when he had been ejected from the throne of France. The Tsar had sent the Count to break the news to Bernadotte that he was not likely to be selected. The Count, who had not much love for Bernadotte, was glad enough to accept the mission. Having led Bernadotte well up the garden path by inducing him to point out all the qualifications necessary for Napoleon's successor, and making him believe that he was looked upon as the right man for the job, the Count then proceeded quickly to disillusion him.

Pozzo di Borgo: Prince, I have already taken the liberty of speaking and writing down the words I have just had the honour of hearing from your own lips. I have done more. I have gone so far as to indicate the man in my mind, the man to whom I think the destiny of our country should be entrusted.

Bernadotte: Would it be impertinent to inquire the name of the person indicated by your great experience of these matters.

Pozzo de Borgo: Your Highness, I imagine, has already guessed it.

Bernadotte: Yet I may after all be mistaken, Count. His name if you please—the name of the man who has your vote.

Pozzo di Borgo: Prince, you force me to speak. Well, then—I am the man. Yes, I myself. I am French, a soldier, acquainted with the administration of affairs, experienced in dealing with the interests of Europe, and am on friendly terms with almost every sovereign. Were not those the conditions required by your Highness?

(Bernadotte bounded in a rage from the table and left the room.)

PORTUGAL UNDER SALAZAR

Left Wing writers and speakers are in the habit of writing and speaking of Portugal as if she were one of a group of Fascist States. In a strict sense there is really only one Fascist State and that is Italy, and while there are certain resemblances between the forms of government in the two countries, there are also, as Mr. Michael Derrick rightly points out in his brief but instructive book, "The Portugal of Salazar" (Sands, Paladin Press, 5s.), essential differences. In each the main control is in the hands of one man; in each there is acceptance of the corporative dogma. But:—

"The difference in corporate theory can be expressed quite simply: the corporation of Italy is a *corporatisme d'état*, while that of Portugal is a *corporatisme d'association*. Italian Fascism began with the compulsory dissolution of all existing forms of Trade Unionism; in Portugal there were no effective Trade Unions before the coming of Salazar, and the *Estado Novo* provided the worker for the first time with machinery for collective bargaining. . . . In Portugal the Corporation is to be an autonomous body. . . . In Italy the Corporation is to be an organ of the State. . . . In Portugal the mission of the State is to serve, not to regiment. Liberty is respected, therefore; and the Constitution lists and guarantees the rights and liberties of the citizens. . . . In Italy, which is Fascist, a party with a programme gained power and applied it. In Portugal a man with a number of fundamental principles, and those principles little more than the bases of Christian morals, was placed in control and fostered and developed a truly Portuguese Portugal."

Other Dictators have forced their way to power or deliberately manoeuvred for it. Salazar, as Mr. Derrick says, became a statesman and a Dictator *malgré lui*. When he was first summoned from his Professorship of Political Economy at Coimbra University in June, 1926, to reorganise his country's finances, he was exceedingly loath to respond to the invitation, and when he got to Lisbon he stayed there only a week, refusing to continue in the job given him because of colleagues' interference with his discretion. Two years later he was summoned again, and this time he made it clear that it was only a sense of duty that had caused him to accept a responsibility he would not have incurred "for any man merely in friendship," and that his acceptance was conditional upon receiving complete authority to act as he thought fit. In the ten years that have elapsed he has rehabilitated the country's finances, freed Portugal from the confusion of incessantly changing governments and the menace of disorder, and set it well on the road to prosperity. One thing else Mr. Derrick would claim he has done for Portugal and Europe. He has indirectly been the means of averting one grave danger. If he had not emerged like another Cincinnatus to save his country when he did, "the first Soviet offensive in Western Europe would have come quite certainly from both sides of the Iberian Peninsula simultaneously; the subjection of Spain would have been relentless and brief, and Europe might well by to-day have been in flames." If the Valencia Government had a chance of winning the Civil War, there would be serious risk, according to Mr. Derrick, of it immediately challenging Portugal's independence as a separate State.

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Other Announcements to follow

6, FLEET LANE, LONDON, E.C.4

But he thinks that all the probabilities are in favour of General Franco's ultimate victory, and he is inclined to discount the reports that suggest that General Franco contemplates annexing Portugal as a "province of Spain."

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW MASSACRE

The horror of St. Bartholomew's Day, 1572 (and the succeeding weeks) has left a big stain on the pages of Valois history. There is little new to be added to the facts by industrious delving into contemporary sources. But, as Miss Sylvia Lennie England proves ("The Massacre of Saint Bartholomew," John Long, illustrated, 12s. 6d.), much is to be gained by gathering all that is known about the tragedy into one authoritative book. A great deal of valuable material for a detailed consecutive story was, till Miss England started her labours, hidden away in the proceedings of various societies, in unusual periodicals, or in footnotes to other publications. Very little that has any bearing on the tragedy seems to have escaped her eagle eyes. And she now has the distinction of being the first writer in English or French to devote a book wholly to the one subject of the massacre. For that reason and because of the scholarship that has gone to its writing it is likely to remain for long the main authority on the subject.

Historical controversy concerning the massacre has chiefly centred in the questions whether the motives for it were religious or political, and what was the precise part taken in the affair by Catherine de Medici. Miss England is convinced that the motives of those responsible for starting the massacre were personal and political. She does not believe that Catherine had been planning this gruesome business, as some have concluded from a stray remark of Alva's, as long back as her meeting with Alva at Bayonne in 1565, or even since the Peace of St. Germain in 1570. Such a course, says Miss England, would have been quite out of character with Catherine's hesitant, opportunist and peace-loving policy. She was driven at the last moment by jealousy and the fear that Coligny had supplanted her in the King's counsels to take advantage of a Guise plot already in being and directed against the Huguenot leaders for "personal and political reasons." Into the subsequent murder of hundreds of Huguenots by the Paris and provincial mobs many motives, of course, may have entered: religious, personal spite or hatred or even the desire for loot. But one excuse for this mass murder, Miss England contends, had certainly no validity. There was never any reason to believe in a Huguenot plot. "If the Huguenots," she dryly remarks, "had really intended to kill the King and his brothers and seize the throne, they had adopted a strange procedure in bringing their wives and dependents with them to the wedding, as many had done, into what they must have known would become a dangerous town and possibly a very shambles."

THE MEXICAN BORDER

The Wild West continues to have its fascination for the novelist and a fairly large section of the reading public, even if some of the wildness prob-

ably has long disappeared through the influences of advancing civilisation. Fiction has its licence and a novelist may be excused for exaggerating for the purpose of adding to his thrills. But to those who would like to have a taste of the real thing one can heartily recommend the autobiography of Mr. Dan de Lara ("Harry") Hughes, "South From Tombstone" (Methuen, 8s. 6d.). Here we have the Wild West in its true and genuine setting. The author tells his tale simply, yet vividly and convincingly. He has had a hard life and has "lived dangerously," but for all his sixty-four years he seems to have preserved much of his youthful vigour. He starts off his tale in the year 1881 in the mining town of Tombstone, Arizona, and one of the first pictures of his early years is that of a band of boys "getting up before daylight and sneaking down-town and taking the spurs of the dead men that had been killed in saloon brawls during the night, and had been dragged out into the gutter for the police to pick up in the morning. One could always find three or four, come daylight." Spurs being "expensive" were, of course, a rich treasure. A "pretty smart bunch of kids," Harry and his companions were, one can well believe. While still in his teens the author had become successively cow-hand and miner and he had also been employed on the highly precarious job of carrying the pay-bag from an Arizona bank to the Mexican mine in which his father was working as foreman. He had, in this latter job to run the risk of encountering both American outlaws and Yaqui Indians. In the years that followed he did some more mining and worked for a time in the employ of an unscrupulous Mexican. Then he took over his uncle's ranch and got into conflict with a neighbouring company-owned ranch who even went to the length of hiring a gang of gunmen to get rid of him. This was a time when the author apparently found time hanging rather heavily on him, for he tells us "having nothing else to do" he took to reading the Bible "not from a religious standpoint, but for its stories and the beauty of its language."

PUBLISHERS' PLANS

Robert Hale will be bringing out in the near future an English edition of a much discussed American book "England Expects Every American to Do His Duty." The author is Mr. Quincy Howe, a sturdy champion of an isolation policy for the United States.

From Cassell's will be coming shortly "The Life of Lord Darling" by Mr. Derek Walker-Smith. This will have a preface written by Lord Hailsham.

Methuen's are publishing this month "The Drama of Madagascar," by Mrs. Sonia Howe, a Russian by birth. The foreword is written by Lord Lugard.

Macmillan's have almost ready the new book by Baroness Sophie Buxhoeveden who a year before the war was lady-in-waiting to the Tsarina and who wrote "The Life and Tragedy of Alexandra Feodorovna, Empress of Russia." The new book will be called "Before the Storm," and will contain an account of the Baroness' life and experiences in Russia before the Revolution.

Round the Empire

UNION AND BRITAIN

MR. OSWALD PIROW, Union Minister of Railways and Harbours and Defence, in one of his recent speeches, made an interesting reference to the Union's relations with Britain. It had been said by speakers of the Dominion Party that the Hertzog Government was republican in everything but name, and therefore hostile to Great Britain. "This Government is suspected of severing the bonds with Britain. It is a curious fact that during the time this Government has been in power South Africa has advanced from second to first position as far as Great Britain's custom is concerned. We are to-day Great Britain's best customer and she is also our best customer. I think we will get much farther if we leave commercial enterprise to common sense."

Proceeding Mr. Pirow pointed out that America had a vast favourable balance of trade to South Africa's disadvantage. "I am prepared to say that I would like to see a large proportion of this trade with America go to Britain if she will give us preference for our citrus and other products which urgently require preference," he added amid applause. On the question of airways, Mr. Pirow explained that Junkers planes were used in South Africa because they were the best civil planes in the world. On the other hand, the South African Air Force used British military planes, which he considered to be the best in the world. "We have an arrangement with Britain to obtain these planes at a reasonable price," he said, "and within five years we will have 500 British fighting planes."—(Applause.)

Dealing with the question of German colonies, Mr. Pirow said that there were people even in Great Britain who were prepared to discuss this question if it would bring peace and general settlement. If a man in South Africa said the same thing he was accused of being pro-German and of having leanings towards secession. "I do not think the British Government has ever laid it down that South-West Africa and Tanganyika cannot be given back again. We, on the other hand, have said that economics and strategy and other considerations make this impossible."

In another speech Mr. Pirow referred to the Union's position in the event of Britain being involved in war. "If Britain intends going to war," he said, "she will ask the Dominions for their support and I have a suspicion that if we refuse it, Britain will think twice before going to war herself." He appealed to his audience to realise that whatever their feelings might be towards the land of their origin, in the end and in fact they were South Africans, with one country and one allegiance. Continuing, he said that he believed that the existing strain between the democracies and the totalitarian States was only a passing phase, but he again stressed the fact that he believed that the danger to Europe lay east of Singapore.

"Military leaders of a certain Eastern Power,"

he said, "consider the white man with supreme contempt, as various incidents, followed by curious apologies, show. The result is that the prestige of the white man in the East is at a very low ebb and this is bound to have repercussions in other parts of the Pacific, leading to a growth of contempt for the power of the white man." Sooner or later, the clash between East and West would have to come.

MIXED MARRIAGES INQUIRY

The Union Government has lately appointed a Commission to investigate the question of mixed marriages. This Commission is composed as follows: Mr. C. W. de Villiers, K.C. (former Attorney-General of the Transvaal), chairman; Professor R. W. Wilcocks, Rector of the University of Stellenbosch; Mr. C. P. Brink, an advocate, of Bloemfontein; Mrs. M. C. Malherbe, M.P. for Wonderboom, and Mrs. N. B. Spilhaus, M.P.C. for Rondebosch. The terms of reference of the Commission are: "To investigate and report upon the question of mixed marriages in the Union between Europeans and non-Europeans, and to determine whether such marriages (1) are on the increase or are likely to increase, and (2) are sufficiently numerous to be seriously detrimental to the welfare of the Union and the future composition of the population; and to recommend whether it is necessary that any further steps should be taken to discourage such marriages."

The appointment of the Commission is a sequel to an agitation in the Transvaal and the Free State which had an echo during last year's session of the Union Parliament. The Government then agreed to institute inquiries into allegations made by members regarding the unlawful holding of land by Asiatics in the Transvaal and the prevalence of mixed marriages.

UNION AND ITALIAN SHIPPING

Overtures to the South African Government to continue the Italian shipping subsidy of £150,000 a year are to be made by the Italian Minister at Cape Town, a Rome correspondent of the *Argus* learns. Italian shipping circles believe that the Union Government has already unofficially made known to Italy that the subsidy will not be renewed, but so far no official notification has been received by the Lloyd Triestino Company, which operates the South African service with the assistance of the Union's subsidy.

Mr. Pirow in one of his recent speeches referred to the subsidy, merely remarking that the Italian shipping lines had been instrumental in bringing about a tremendous improvement in the sea service and its continuance was purely a business proposition. "If some sections are going to harp on this question, other subsidies must be brought under review."

The Italian Minister at Cape Town, it is reported, has been instructed by the Italian Foreign Office to take up the matter with the Union Government. It is quite normal for the matter to be handled through Italian diplomatic channels in view of the large degree of State control over Italian shipping and the fact that the South African service also enjoys a subsidy from the Italian Government of £400,000 a year. If the

subsidy is renewed, Italian shipping circles consider the refrigerated space in various ships may be increased and eight new and faster ships may be built for the mail services round the African continent. In some quarters it is suggested that the *Duilio* and the *Giulio Cesare* might be replaced by two new ships capable of 22 knots.

The freight carried by the subsidised line has not yet recovered from the setback of sanctions, but the number of passengers carried is stated to have risen slightly this year over all previous years.

It is argued in Italian shipping circles, the correspondent goes on to say, that the Union would harm its own interests by not renewing the subsidy. In the first place, non-renewal would probably lead to a reduction of Italian imports from South Africa, and in the second place South African exports to the Central European and Mediterranean countries, such as Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey, would be hit, for no other nation would find it worth while to provide such facilities for the volume of trade, totalling only between 300 and 400 tons a month to these countries. The present service, it is maintained, carries South African goods into the heart of the Mediterranean at exceptionally cheap rates. Italian commercial circles hope the Union will one day see its way to negotiate trade agreements with Italy, and are disappointed that South Africa has not yet realised the importance of the Italian market at a time when Australia and Argentina have increased their exports of wool to Italy at the expense of the Union.

It is possible that should the Union Government decide not to renew the subsidy the Lloyd Triestino will divert the bulk of its service from Gibraltar and the West African route to the Suez Canal and the East African route. The line would then take a substantial share of the growing passenger and freight traffic to and from the Italian East Africa. It is admitted that the present calls at West African ports, which the Union Government insisted on as a condition of the subsidy, are not profitable to Italy.

BLACKFOOT INDIANS RUN A MILE

Canada's efforts, through the Department of Mines and Resources, to advance the status of the Indians to a position of independence and self-support have been rewarded by the successful establishment of a coal mine on the Blackfoot Reserve about 22 miles from Gleichen in southern Alberta. Operations at the Reserve Mine began in 1931, and by October of that year the demand for coal, which is sold at the mine head, was so great that it was necessary to establish an office and commence the erection of houses and other buildings for the workers. The only white man employed is a qualified miner who supervises the mine operations. Under his direction some fifty Indian miners are employed, and they are paid on a tonnage basis for all coal mined and delivered to the mine head. A very capable Indian is in the office in charge of the books, weighing and selling coal and other routine business. Sanitary men,

the dairyman, drivers, engineers, tippie men and slack haulers are all Indians. Production in the last fiscal year mounted to 10,000 tons of coal, and after five years' operation the debts classed as bad on the books were less than £10.

The Reserve Mine provides steady employment and is run on a co-operative basis. A representative body of Indian miners and members of the Blackfoot band council meet with the Indian Agent, stationed at Gleichen, when agreements are made as to prices, wages and general development. The mine owns between 30 and 40 houses; a wash-house provided with showers and wash-tubs with hot water service; a dairy which provides milk from tested cattle at low cost; a barn for the mine ponies and cows; a blacksmith shop, and a dressing station and drug dispensary. An Indian woman runs a restaurant which caters not only to the single Indian miners but also to a discriminating white clientele. A large tent with a floor for dancing provides the entertainment centre, while the spiritual needs of this happy Indian village are cared for by two churches.

SHOCKS FOR SEEDS

As befits a country which has for decades played a dominant part in the world's agricultural system, Canada has spared, and is sparing, no efforts to improve the strains of her crop yields. Some remarkable work has been accomplished in this direction by scientists. Take, for example, the case mentioned in a broadcast talk a few days ago by Dr. N. H. Grace, of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council. Talking of seeds, treatment, he said, "has consisted of immersion in solutions of chemicals. Apparently this method of furnishing the stimulants results in a shock effect. Research has resulted in a simple, practical method of applying the chemicals. A great increase in the rate of root development follows the proper treatment. In some cases fourteen-day-old wheat plants had twice the total length of roots of the untreated group. May this increase in root development be of value in meeting early drifting of the soil? May this rapid start get the crop away from the weeds? May the result be earlier maturity and greater yield? These are some of the possibilities which are to receive intensive study this coming season.

"If," he went on, "the wide-scale tests confirm the laboratory indications, the cost of the chemical or the difficulty of application will be no bar to general use. Application is made in the form of a dust—a dust containing a small amount of the proper stimulant. Further, the stimulating chemical may be added along with the standard dust disinfectants now on the market. This means that no extra operation will be involved in treating the seed for the standard farm crops. What of the cost of treating seed with these growth-speeding chemicals? One pound of the chemical is enough to treat the seed for from 5,000 to 10,000 acres of wheat. In other words, one pound of the active chemical, diluted with many pounds of a dust, treats the seed for many average farms. Recent research has resulted in a new method of synthesis

of one of the most active of these growth hormones. The method has reduced the cost of this chemical from over £200 a pound to a few dollars. Seed treatment with plant growth stimulants is not limited to crops such as wheat, oats and barley. Preliminary work with a number of garden seeds has shown promise."

BRITISH ANTHRACITE IN CANADA

There is an interesting observation on British anthracite exports to Canada in a review just published by Mr. F. G. Neate, the Secretary of the Dominion Fuel Board, at Ottawa. The decline in British anthracite imports, he observes, has been caused "by the inability of exporters to obtain a continuous supply for North Atlantic and St. Lawrence markets. European countries—France, Italy, Scandinavia—are paying considerably higher prices for the same Welsh anthracite with the result that premium markets in Europe are getting the preference on coal which would otherwise be available to us. With an increase in wages at the mines, amounting to some 10 per cent., and the probability of higher ocean rates, it is more than likely that greater tonnages will be diverted to European outlets unless we (Canada) are prepared to pay higher prices. Early in the year, due to numerous expressions of public concern, a report was published on the subject of anthracite coal prices, and official inquiry into the matter revealed that export prices were not unfair when compared with prices obtaining in the home market, and that there was no evidence as to price-fixing arrangements in Canada." Statistics compiled by the Board show that last year imports of British anthracite totalled 33.4 per cent. of Canada's purchases.

CEYLON IN LONDON

There will shortly be a new personality in the representation of the Overseas parts of the Empire in London. Mr. G. K. W. Perera is now on his way from Ceylon to assume, towards the end of this month, the office of the Island's Trade Commissioner in place of Dr. P. E. Pieris, who is relinquishing that post after occupying it with great distinction for three years. Dr. Pieris, one of the outstanding scholars of Ceylon, and an authority on archaeology and *objets d'art*, was the first Trade Commissioner ever sent to London by the island, and his scholarship, his industry and his personal charm have won for him many friendships in diplomatic, artistic and economic circles in this country. He and his two sons are graduates of Cambridge, both of the latter winning their Boxing Blues. One of them, Justin Pieris, is making a big reputation for himself as a painter, while his brother is a leading expert of biology. He is shortly returning to this country to carry out certain lines of research. Dr. Pieris' daughter is a famous exponent of traditional Ceylon dancing, her latest appearance in this rôle being in Alexander Korda's latest production, *The Drum*, shortly to be released in London.

Dr. Pieris has yet to decide his future movements. He may return to Colombo, but it is not

improbable that he will remain in London for some little time on special research work. Since he assumed his duties he has made the museums of Ceylon the richer by a number of important finds in various parts of England. It was during his régime, too, that the regalia of the last King of Kandy were returned to Colombo from the Royal collections here.

YOUNG CEYLON AND THE SOIL

The idea of establishing what are known as young farmers' clubs—it originated in Canada some years ago—to encourage young people to take an interest in agricultural affairs has spread to Ceylon. Devised as a means of checking the flow of populations to towns and at the same time of making farming as a whole more scientific and more remunerative, the clubs are confined largely to the children of farmers. They are encouraged by competition and other means to cultivate plots of land of their own, to raise cattle and poultry, to apply to the soil the latest discoveries of scientific research, and from time to time to come together to exchange views and, as it were, compare products.

In Ceylon the same principles are being applied under the ægis of the Ceylon Education Department. Instead, however, of calling the movement the Young Farmers' clubs, it has been designated the Rural Scheme for Schools. It is the first step in the establishment of "school farms" on a large scale with the object of giving an agricultural bias to school children and making life in the villages more interesting and more profitable. The Ceylon Poultry Club has shown its interest in the movement by offering medals for the most successful results secured by children in poultry farming. Money prizes are also being offered for paddy, for fodder grass cultivation, for cattle farming, for maintaining the health of livestock and for general sanitary work on the farms. There is a shrewd psychological touch in the further offer of money prizes to head teachers, who will be awarded bonuses in recognition of any constructive work they do in inducing the younger generation to turn again to the soil.

CEYLON'S EMPIRE TRADE

Two-thirds of Ceylon's imports are now taken from the Empire. According to the official Customs Returns of the island for the year 1937, the Empire accounted for £12,060,000 of the £18,000,000 worth of imports which entered Ceylon last year. The £12,060,000 represents an increase of £2,000,000 over imports from the Empire to Ceylon in 1936.

Imports from the United Kingdom—Ceylon buys more from us than from any other country—rose by £640,000 in 1937 to just over £4,000,000. The United Kingdom is also the island's best customer. The returns reveal that of the total value of Ceylon exports in 1937, which amounted to £23,230,000, Britain took £10,650,000. The Empire as a whole took £15,660,000, or more than two-thirds of the total value of exports.

Letters to the Editor

P.R. FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

Sir,—The "counting out" of the Local Elections (P.R.) Bill last Friday may delay but cannot stop the victory of a movement based on the broad human principle of justice. It is inconsistent with democratic government that large sections of a community are, under the present method of electing local authorities, cut off from any part in the affairs of their city.

The "count out" was skilfully organised. On a private members' day, members take the occasion to attend to personal or constituency matters. Many who had promised to support the Bill had not yet arrived at the early hour at which the count took place. A number, previously present in the Chamber, who desired to avoid the issue, stayed in the Lobby. If the measure had been presented to the House of Lords, a full development of the debate would have been permitted.

So far as the debate went, the honours were with the supporters of the Bill. These included Sir William Wayland, an ex-Mayor of Deptford, Mr. Cecil H. Wilson, formerly leader of the Labour Party in the city Council of Sheffield, and Sir Percy Harris, a deputy-chairman of the London County Council, representing three different

parties. The case would have been further strengthened by contributions, among others, from Sir Patrick Hannon, representing a division of Birmingham; Sir George Hume, a former leader of the Conservative Party in the London County Council and intimately acquainted with problems of London municipal government; Mr. Herbert Holdsworth, representing a division of Bradford; and Mr. A. P. Herbert and Sir Arthur Salter, members for Oxford University, both of whom bring a fresh and non-partisan view to public questions.

Again and again in our history the existing institutions of self-government have been found to be outgrown by the conditions of the time. Reform has brought them new life and strength. Reform is urgently needed to-day. I am confident not only that P.R. is necessary, but that P.R., if introduced in local government in this country, would be an unqualified success, and would in a very short time be accepted as the only method appropriate to a free self-governing community. The movement for fair representation will continue until its purpose is achieved.

JOHN H. HUMPHREYS,
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REFUGE

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Summary of Directors' Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

Total Income for the year, £13,199,202.

Total Assets at end of the year, £68,709,610.

Total Claims Paid in the year, £6,648,810. The Company has paid £109,702,898, in claims since its establishment.

The Total Assurances existing on December 31st, 1937 amounted to £82,787,380 in the Ordinary Branch and £113,014,042 in the Industrial Branch.

Reversionary Bonus of £1-16-0 per cent. declared on Ordinary Branch participating Policies.

Industrial Branch : £256,194 Profits allocated to certain classes of Policyholders.

J. WILCOCK HOLGATE,
Chairman.

Your Investments

THE SHADOW OF THE BUDGET

IN their present state Stock Markets are in no way fitted to face a Budget next month which may even bring the hint of increased taxation. So far, the good revenue inflow has dispelled fears of adverse measures in the coming Budget, but now the War Services estimates have been published showing a £63,000,000 increase for the three Services alone, and there is every likelihood of a £1,000,000,000 Budget, investment interests are beginning to look at the situation askance. It is true that the prospect of the original five-year Defence Expenditure estimate of £1,500,000,000 being exceeded is no "bull point" for gilt-edged, but if there is to be some raising of interest rates as a result, few could grumble at the extra cost to the Treasury and the slightly higher return to the investor.

HIGH AIRCRAFT YIELDS

Assuming that Aircraft dividends will be at least maintained this year, and that there is a good chance of an increase next year, the shares are now remarkably cheap, standing at well below last year's highest, though orders are believed to have increased sufficiently to offset higher costs. Bristol Aeroplane 10s. shares at 47s. yield $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and this is probably the "gilt-edged" of the market. The company's business is enormous, and with Rolls-Royce, it shares the honour of being leading aero engine manufacturer. Fairey Aviation pay a tax-free dividend of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the 10s. shares are priced at 18s. 6d. The gross or less-tax yield is therefore $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., which is quite out of keeping with the company's financial standing. De Havilland £1 shares at 40s. return $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the basis of last year's $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. distribution, and they look highly attractive. Handley-Page 5s. units at 28s. 9d. return only $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and there is the chance of another capital bonus in the case of this company which, it should be remembered, is of pre-War vintage. Hawker-Siddeley 5s. shares give very nearly 9 per cent. at their present price of 23s. 3d., and these, with Fairey, look the most attractive.

FRIENDLESS RAILWAY STOCKS

Once again, it appears timely to point out how large an income can be obtained on investments in Home Railway stocks. Despite last year's good dividends, the market is so "bearish" that the yield factor is ignored in favour of depressing views regarding the current year's prospects.

On last year's $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. dividend Southern Railway deferred stock gives the enormous yield of near 8 per cent. London and North-Eastern 2nd preference stock at $21\frac{1}{2}$ also gives 8 per cent. The L.N.E.R. depends for its main revenues upon the heavy industries of the North-East Coast, and their present activity hardly seems to warrant such pessimistic views of the stock which received a fully-earned $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for 1937. L.M.S. ordinary stock at $21\frac{1}{2}$ gives a 7 per cent. return, and a really cheap semi-investment stock is the 1923 4 per cent. preference, which at 61 yields a full $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Great Western ordinary yielding nearly 7 per cent. at 56 is also most attractive in view of South Wales' industrial prospects. These are yields which would appear high on mining shares with limited life.

METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC

Metropolitan Electric Supply, one of the London Power group, experienced a further big increase in sales of current last year, and income expanded from £1,665,602 to £1,814,789. The sum of £178,255 is allocated to depreciation and reserve, and the dividend of 10 per cent. is accompanied by a 2 per cent. bonus. For the previous year the dividend of 10 per cent. was augmented by a $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. tax-free bonus, but this was of a special nature, and the bonus announced this year therefore made a good impression on the market. So steady is the company's expansion that the shares must be classed as an excellent investment, and at 47s. they return over 5 per cent.

LONDON AND THAMES HAVEN

In view of the company's new venture in Irish National Refineries, London and Thames Haven Oil wharves was expected this year to adopt a conservative dividend policy, and no bonus accompanies the usual 10 per cent. tax-free dividend which has now been paid for many years past. The company has come up against leading oil interests lately over the question of distribution in Eire, but it is hoped that better relations will soon be established again. At 35s. the £1 shares give a tax-free yield of nearly $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., or about £7 12s. less tax.

REFUGE PROGRESS

Further progress is shown by the report of the Refuge Assurance Company for the year to Dec. 31 last, total assets increasing to £68,709,610. Claims paid during the year amounted to over £6,608,000 and premium income totalled £10,481,573. In the ordinary branch 55,782 policies were issued assuring £8,684,648 while the premium income in the industrial branch was £5,853,736. Since the company was established it has paid out over £109,000,000 in claims.

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